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July 23, 1999

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Dear Ted,

Thank you for your letter of July 16 (#64) which arrived today. I am concerned about much contained in this letter.

I have taken some notes while reading the correspondence that you forwarded to me. I think it is best to simply cite them here to spare you the tome I would otherwise be forced to compose. I will first respond to the letters that caused me to react immediately, and then proceed to comment on your letter. I will say here that I must try to maintain a neutral stance since Mello's work is published by Context Books. This has not been easy to do in all instances. The below should be considered confidential (which would not include any attorney-client privilege you may still have). Should you need to make public any of the information, I am open to suggestions of a politic use to be decided by us beforehand.

MM>TJK; 8.5.98: The tone of this letter is unbelievable. I am glad that you sent it. Fact is sometimes much stranger than fiction. I found it childish.

MM>TJK; 9.17.98: MM's claim that he is not in need of money troubles me somewhat because it does not tally with information that he has related to me. It is my impression that he is very much interested in money. He has not given me an inch with regard to things financial. There are facts in support of the above stated impression.

MM>TJK; 11.3.98: I never said that I "really wanted" to see the draft 2255. I think he offered to send it down and I passively accepted the offer. *Note bene:* I did not open the envelope for three days after its arrival. This would suggest the degree of impetuosity in my alleged request. I should add that I did want to see the draft. As you will recall, I commented on it at the time.

MM>TJK; 11.24.98: There was some degree of bonding with Greenberg, but I was always suspicious and specifically wondered whether Greenberg was a loose cannon in a letter to you.

Mello was carefully solicitous about the order of publication with regard to your book and his respectively. He was relieved when I told him that his book would come out a month and a half before his.

MM>TJK; 5.10.99: I held the redacted page of this letter between my fingers as one might a pair of soiled underwear. I imagine that Mello argues that 60 Minutes was inferior to van Susterin, who is a Scientologist*. Mello was wholly interested in promoting his book. Van Susterin would not run Mello alone. In other words, she was using Mello to get an interview with you. Mello is not a widely known figure, which means to say that there are other people the press would go to first for expert commentary, and before he got involved with you he had little occasion to be in touch with media at such a high level. He had been on major news television (national) once before.

The hearing problem to which he gave wind stems from an occasion when Mello came to NYC for an interview with A&E. Mello missed a flight, and then he failed to find the driver I had sent to bring him to the hotel. There was no problem with his trip as we had planned it. The ticket agency sent Mello the wrong ticket, but this was cleared up before he flew. His wife was angry when I adopted a clipped tone with her on the phone – I was trying to locate her husband at the time and she was keeping me from it! As for other instances of my lack of attention, all other occasions have been associated with conversation either with _____ his wife, or conversations instigated by her. These conversations had to do with complicated publishing matters. They did not know what they were talking about, and I listened with half an ear. Our distribution is far-reaching (e.g., Mello's book is available from three wholesalers and can be found in major bookstores in all fifty states as well as Canada).

The real basis for this comment: Mello was *very* angry with me about a chance he "missed" involving a short human interest piece on him that People Magazine wanted to do after the Boston Globe ran the piece subtitled "VT Law Professor Overcomes Hate." I asked the editor to wait until his book came out and they lost interest – end of story. Mello very much wanted to be in this high-profile magazine. This was the only thing Mello mentioned in support of the accusation (leveled at me when he came down for the interview) that I did not listen to him.

Aldag: I hired _____ to work on Mello's book, and suggested that he might work on yours if he did well. He has done well, and I will hire him for your book. I called _____ on the allegations here and he denied them (*i.e.*, he said that no questions were ever drafted for MM to forward). Please let me know if this is not true. I remember _____ suggesting a Q and A at the time, and I told him to wait.

* Scientologists are laughable. I believe it is possible to find someone's character despicable on the basis of this affiliation alone.

While it is on my mind, Scharlette Holdman said that Mello was a washed-up attorney who has taken refuge in academia. It is not my impression that Vermont Law School is among the country's best institutions. She thought Mello seemed a mercenary. I did not ask her to clarify, but this comment was made in connection with the possibility that a retrial would re-expose you to the death penalty.

You have shown great restraint in the responses to Mello. I am aghast at this bizarre turn of events. Mello does not know that you have sent me copies of any of his correspondence, and I do not plan on telling him. Why bother?

(p. 1, ¶ 1b-p.2, ¶ 1): I think your position is correct and you are free of any obligation you may have felt compunction about at an earlier junction.

I think is okay, and while I appreciate your preferences with regard to financial matters, I was not terribly put out by the request. Like I said, I like to help people out when I can. I suppose it must seem strange. You are not the only one to raise an objection. Both and were mystified by my decision. I am going to give the matter further thought, since you are generally right about this sort of thing. Thank you for the comment.

(p. 3, ¶ 2): I am very aware of the big-brother issues that plague David. It is on this level that I feel your book is more important than you suggest in your notes to Mello's letters. It is important because it sheds light on dynamics that are not unique to you and your brother. I think *Truth versus Lies* will be of great interest to many on the basis of this observation. I wrote the second letter in deference to the possibility that he might listen to reason. I am currently collecting instructions for your upcoming work as a paraphrast, and literature on "fair use," which I will send to you with the page proofs.

(p. 3, ¶ 1b): You don't need to tell anything about the bush she may or may not have been beating. I wrote that in a moment of irritation, and now feel, once again, that I can take care of myself. If you would like to discuss the money issue, you are free to do so.

(p. 4, ¶ 2): A thousand apologies! I see your point immediately and understand the damage I may be responsible for. I was wrong, speaking out of place, and it will not happen again. I am sorry. I am glad that you approved of my advice vis-à-vis shutting up *et al.* Thank you for clearing up the pie matter, I figured you would be completely on the safe side with regard to such things. Again, I understand where I erred and it will not happen again.

(p. 5, ¶ 1b): The convent was erected in the 1890s and abandoned in the 1970s. and her friends applied to the city to open up the place for low-income housing, and they prevailed. This was over ten years ago. About three years ago, the government decided that the building was a historical site, and they provided over a 700 thousand dollars for renovations. We live there for a fraction of normal city rates, and it is permanent. I have no interest in eating our neighbor I have heard that violets are edible, and will try one next chance I get (we have no violets in the

garden). We just harvested sage, mint, lettuce, and kale. I like kale and had some but wonder whether the environs of Brooklyn might tend to make our produce toxic. Any thoughts? I assume it is somewhat toxic, and therefore eat it only occasionally. I don't suppose the produce that we get in New York is any less so.... Does poverty weed produce an edible tuber, or is it just greens? I have little knowledge of edible vegetation identification. I think knows a little about it – her uncle is a subsistence farmer in New Mexico.

I want to interview for mainstream media. I am not sure whether it should be paper or electronic. even suggested that I might be able to take part in the 60 Minutes interview with Wallace were you to be interested in pursuing that as your televised appearance. My questions would in large part depend on the areas you felt comfortable discussing. It might be more illuminating to tell you my goal, which is to give readers or viewers a comprehensive sense of who you are and what you stand for. I would like to ask about the Unabomber campaign. I would like to ask about the rationale implicit in those bombings vis-à-vis the eventual publication of the manifesto in the *Washington Post*. I would like to discuss the role of morality in a revolutionary act. I would also like to discuss your relationship with your family, including David's former radical stance and his relationship to you and your mother's tendency to take narcissistic satisfaction in your accomplishments. In addition to these areas, I would like to touch upon your time in prison to give people an idea of the conditions in which you are kept. I am sure these areas will give rise to all the material I would need to create an interview for mainstream media.

Strangely enough Derrick just called and I read the foregoing paragraph. Derrick liked what I have here, and added that his first question would be: "So, what's wrong with industrial civilization?" Derrick said that he wouldn't "talk family" unless you wanted to. He may well be the person to do this, since he would also be shooting for the mainstream audience I mention. I can recommend him, and what is more, of all the characters we know mutually, he is the most consistent and there is little chance that he would do anything untoward or errant or irritating (unless you find his brand of emotionalism (wd?) irritating).

Keep me posted with regard to the appeal and Mello. I am not going to let him know about the information with which you have provided me. I have told to avoid Mello in a non-specific way and Derrick, who was going to interview Mello as a favor to me (his offer), has been informed only that an interview with Mello would compromise his values and beliefs. He asked no further questions and pointed out that I said the same thing two months ago when the topic first came up.

I guess that's it. Until later, I am

Fans,

Beau.